

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EB-03 AID-10 FAA-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /043 R

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4/13/73 EXT 23468

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AF/ NI: JLLOUGHRAN

FAA: AGC1: JBAKER

FAA: AIA1: CCAREY

FAA: GLUECKER

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P 132310 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069819

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN CIVIL AVIATION

FOR AMBASSADOR

REF: (A) STATE 57000; (B) LAGOS 2688, (C) LAGOS 2758, (D)

LAGOS 2815, (E) LAGOS 2817, (F) LAGOS 2918

SUMMARY: BAKER PREPARED TRAVEL LAGOS FOR DIRECT EXCHANGE WITH OBI FOR FRANK DISCUSSION OF BASIS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN MOT AND FAA. WHILE BAKER NOW UNLIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE FOR NIGERIAN POST, HE WOULD MAKE COMMITMENT TO MOT TO USE AUTHORITY AS SENIOR FAA OFFICIAL TO MAKE AVAILABLE QUALIFIED ALTERNATE. EMBASSY' S SUGGESTED APPROACH CONCERNING USAID FINANCING ENTIRELY ACCEPTABLE. HOWEVER, ACRI-
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MONIOUS MOT/ TWA RELATIONSHIP RAISES SOME DOUBT ABOUT NIGERIAN WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH DECISIVE CIVIL AVIATION COMMITMENT IMPLICIT IN SEARCH FOR EXPATRIATE MANAGEMENT FOR AVIATION DIVISION AND NIGERIAN AIRWAYS. INITIAL FMG RECEPTION OF TWA STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS MAY SUGGEST WHETHER USG IN POSITION TO EXERT ANY EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE ON SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. FAA APPREHENSIVE THAT TWA/ MOT MISUNDERSTANDINGS FORESHADOW SIMILAR PROBLEMS FOR ITS OWN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND BELIEVES THAT BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF BASIS FOR COOPERATION MUST BE ACHIEVED BEFORE FINAL FORM OF MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL PRESENTED. IT FEELS DIRECT EXCHANGE WITH OBI ANTICIPATED DURING JANUARY LAGOS VISIT APPEARS ALL THE MORE NECESSARY NOW. IF NIGERIANS INDICATE DESIRE TO PURSUE FAA PROGRAM APRIL 16, EMBASSY SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT FAA CONSIDERS FACE-TO-FACE REVIEW OF FINAL PROPOSAL WITH OBI (AND ANY OTHER NIGERIANS WITH DECISION- MAKING RESPONSIBILITY ON THIS MATTER) ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISH FRAKEST POSSIBLE UNDERSTANDING OF EXPECTATIONS OF BOTH PARTIES. MOT MAY BE INFORMED THAT BAKER PREPARED VISIT LAGOS FOR THIS PURPOSE AT EARLY DATE.

2. HOWEVER, BAKER AVAILABILITY TO ASSUME DIRECTORSHIP NOW APPEARS UNLIKELY. BAKER DOES RETAIN KEEN INTEREST IN FAA ASSISTANCE EFFORT FOR NIGERIA, AS MANIFESTED BY HIS OFFER VISIT LAGOS AGAIN TO WORK OUT FINAL PROGRAM PROPOSAL. DURING LAGOS VISIT BAKER WOULD EXPLAIN THAT HE REGRETS HAVING TO WITHDRAW HIS CANDIDACY, BUT WOULD MAKE COMMITMENT TO USE INFLUENCE AS SENIOR FAA OFFICIAL TO IDENTIFY AND MAKE AVAILABLE MOST QUALIFIED ALTERNATIVE CANDIDATE TO HEAD UP FAA TEAM. FAA VERY MUCH REGRETS THAT CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY OF PERSONNEL SITUATION IN WASHINGTON HAS DELAYED THIS DETERMINATION FOR SO LONG.

3. WITH RESPECT POSSIBILITY OF USAID FINANCING FOR PORTION OF PROJECT, WISH ASSURE EMBASSY/ MISSION THAT APPROACH SUGGESTED PARA 3 REF E, ENTIRELY ACCEPTABLE. ONLY CONSTRAINT PLACED ON PRESENTATION OF LOAN POSSIBILITY IS THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE PROPOSED UNTIL FMG BALKS AT FAA PROPOSAL CAST AS COMMERCIAL PROPOSITION. IF FMG DECIDES TO PURSUE LOAN FUNDING THROUGH AID EVERY EFFORT WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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MADE TO OBTAIN FUNDS SOONEST BUT IT UNLIKELY ANY FUNDS

WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN FY 73. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD NOT RPT
NOT PRECLUDE OR INHIBIT DISCUSSION/ NEGOTIATIONS FOR EARLY
FY 74 FUNDING COMMITMENT.

4. AS RESULT FURTHER REFINEMENT OF COST ESTIMATES
CONTAINED PARA 7, REF A, FAA ADVISES FIGURE NOW STANDS AT
JUST UNDER DOLS 8 MILLION FOR FIVE AND ONE- HALF YEAR PRO-
GRAM, REDUCTION OF DOLS. 1.4 MILLION FROM EARLIER ESTI-
MATE. IN COMPARING COST ESTIMATES WITH FIGURES ORIGINATED
FEW YEARS AGO (PARA 8, REF B), FAA POINTS OUT THAT
FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT FACTORS SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED: A.
THREE USG SALARY INCREASES HAVE OCCURRED; B. ESTIMATES
HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY GENERALLY RISING COST FACTORS
INCLUDING RENT, ALLOWANCES AND DOS SHARED ADMINISTRATIVE
SUPPORT; C. FAA OVERHEAD CHARGE APPLICABLE TO NEW IN
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE069819
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARMCKEE: JS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: CORE6
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730444/aaaaiqar.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980121
Subject: NIGERIAN CIVIL AVIATION
TAGS: ETRN, NI
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005